



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

October 2012 EDITION Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

At-Large Council member

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

Acting City Administrator and Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Vacant

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



As you know, the November elections are around the corner and it is imperative that you exercise your right to vote. Voting is both a privilege and a responsibility. Voting in any type of election is an avenue to voice your opinions concerning leaders and overall policies, especially the ones that affect you. The ability to vote exists as one of the most cherished Constitutional Rights we possess.

When you don't vote you give away your right to influence your government. More importantly, however, not voting takes away the "will of the majority that governs this country, but [replaces it with] the will of the minority" (Smithstein 1). The Twenty-fourth amendment to the United States Constitution states that: the right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State (The U.S. Constitution 54). Because this sacred right has been guaranteed to all citizens of the nation, you should take the initiative to vote for someone/something that shares your views and concerns.*

As you head to the polls this November be informed about the issues and the policies that are being set forth by the candidates. Also pay close attention to the ballot questions that you will be asked to vote on and make sure you understand what the issues are. Here is a list of some of the questions that will be on the ballot in Maryland:

SUMMARY OF QUESTION 1: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Prince George's County – Orphans' Court Judges – Qualifications

Chapter 394 of 2011 (Senate Bill 281)

This constitutional amendment would require that, in addition to the current eligibility requirements, each of the three judges of the Orphans' Court for Prince George's County be admitted to practice law in this State and be a member in good standing of the Maryland Bar.

SUMMARY OF QUESTION 2: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Baltimore County – Orphans' Court Judges – Qualifications

Chapter 146 of 2012 (Senate Bill 48)

This constitutional amendment would require that, in addition to the current eligibility requirements, each of the three judges of the Orphans' Court for Baltimore County be admitted to practice law in this State and be a member in good standing of the Maryland Bar.

SUMMARY OF QUESTION 3: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Elected Officials - Removal from Office - Crimes

Chapter 147 of 2012 (House Bill 211)

This proposed constitutional amendment changes the point at which an elected official charged with certain crimes is suspended or removed from office.

SUMMARY OF QUESTION 4 REFERENDUM BY PETITION

Statutory Enactment Petitioned to Statewide Referendum –

Public Institutions of Higher Education – Tuition Rates – Exemptions

Chapter 191 of 2011 (Senate Bill 167)

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(MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

This Act allows certain individuals who attended and graduated from Maryland high schools to pay in-state tuition and, in certain instances, in-county tuition at community colleges.

SUMMARY OF QUESTION 5: REFERENDUM BY PETITION

Statutory Enactment Petitioned to Statewide Referendum – Congressional Districting Plan

Chapter 1 of the Special Session of 2011 (Senate Bill 1)

This Act establishes a new congressional districting plan for the election of Maryland's eight representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives based on new census figures, as required by law.

SUMMARY OF QUESTION 6: REFERENDUM BY PETITION

Statutory Enactment Petitioned to Statewide Referendum – Civil Marriage Protection Act

Chapter 2 of 2012 (House Bill 438)

This Act amends current law to allow gay and lesbian couples to obtain a civil marriage license. Other prohibitions and age restrictions relating to who may legally marry remain in place.

SUMMARY OF QUESTION 7: REFERENDUM BY STATUTORY ENACTMENT

Gaming Expansion – Video Lottery Terminals and Table Games

Chapter 1 of the Second Special Session of 2012 (Senate Bill 1)

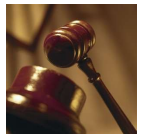
Chapter 1 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the second special session of 2012 (1) authorizes video lottery operation licenses to operate "table games"; (2) increases from 15,000 to 16,500 the maximum number of video lottery terminals that may be operated in the State; and (3) increases from five to six the maximum number of video lottery operation licenses that may be awarded in the State and allows a video lottery facility to operate in Prince George's County.

(For more details on these and other ballot questions go to: http://www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2012/ballot_questions.html)

Last but not least do not succumb to the baseless rumors regarding voter registration. There is currently a rumor that the rules have changed and that if you have not voted since November 2008, you must re-register to vote 30 days prior to November or you will not be allowed to vote in the upcoming National election. The fact of the matter is once you have registered to vote in Maryland you remain a registered voter, you are not required to re-register. Voters are never removed due to inactivity. Voters do not need to keep their registration current - so if you have moved or changed your name, please submit a voter registration application to update your information.

* Taken from an Essay ' The Importance of Voting by Angela Current

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



The City Council has introduced the following legislations in the month of September.

Ordinance O-13-03

Ordinance concerning Amendment of FY2012-2013 Budget for the purchase of a Code Enforcement Officer Vehicle.

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at: City Hall 6301 Addison Road
Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

**CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
ELECTION RESULTS**

The City of Seat Pleasant Election was held on **Monday, September 10, 2012, at City Hall.**

Re-elected and Newly elected officials:

Mayor:
Eugene W. Grant

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(OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK CONTINUED)

COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE:

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.
Kelly Porter

WARD III:

Reveral Yeargin

WARD I:

Elenora Simms

WARD IV:

Gerald Raynor

WARD II:

Aretha Stephenson

WARD V:

Eugene F. Kennedy

If you have questions regarding the results of the election, please call 301-336-2600 to speak with the City Clerk.

COUNCIL CORNER

A WORD FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT KELLY PORTER - HOME BASED BUSINESSES
This is an excerpt regarding home based businesses by Stan of Citizen Corps Home Business Reviews

I've been involved with several home business opportunities and passed on hundreds of others after doing the research. It was kind of sad in a way that some of the good home business opportunities went bad or didn't ever really pan out. Having experienced this a few times I figured out what I would want in the perfect home business.

First: I would want the owner of the company to already be wealthy. Some of the companies I was involved with had good products and pay plans but never really took off. The owners of the companies didn't have the resources to put all the tools and systems in place. They were relying on the income of the startup to finance the business. So people get started and without the foundation in place they just stalled. The second reason is that when the owners are in need of money they squeeze as much money out of the company as they can and don't focus on the business and products.

Second: would be great products. I mean really great products. Products that people would want regardless of the business opportunity. Most of the "home business opportunities" have products that meet the regulatory compliances but they aren't people that would buy without the attached money making opportunity. So all you can really do is recruit people that are looking for a money making opportunity.

So you put forth a lot of effort to recruit people to build your business. Well the average life span of people starting a home business is about 100 days. If they aren't making money by then they disappear. Since they only were buying the products for the business opportunity they stop buying.

So having products that are so good that people will want to buy them regardless of the business opportunity would be a dream come true. This opens up so many doors. If you get a customer they would continue purchasing products from you regularly. Some of them would also become distributors. They may work the business full time or simply refer friend, family and people they meet to the products. Of course if people do get started for the business opportunity then decide it's not for them they would still continue to purchase the products. Then you would have a true long term residual income.

Third: I want the company to ship the products directly to the customers. I don't want to have to purchase and store products that I have to ship. No freedom in that. Also a company with good customer service. If there is a problem with purchasing or shipping and such, I want the customer to have a pleasant experience.

Fourth: I want the company to be fairly new. I'll be honest I'm interested in big money. I want the potential to have at least a 7 figure income. Imagine if you were one of the first distributors of Avon or Mary Kay, you would have thousands of people in your downline that you earn commissions from. Those people are millionaires many times over now.

Fifth: Experienced leadership. I want to know that the company will be around a long time. Quite often you see people that made a lot of money in a home business and then decide to start their own business. Unfortunately while they know how to market they don't know how to "cross the T's and dot the I's" when it comes to meeting regulatory compliances.

Sixth: A good compensation plan. A lot of companies will create a compensation plan that is really designed to put money in the company's pocket not the distributors. They design into the compensation plan what is known as breakage. Basically they have qualification



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(COUNCIL CORNER CONTINUED)

levels, that most people don't attain, to earn the bonuses and commissions. What happens to the money when people aren't "qualified"? The company keeps it. You also don't want to have to have thousand of customers just to earn a good income.

So that's the dream business and I never expected to find a company that met all those requirements, but I wanted to get as close as possible.



A WORD OF THANKS FROM COUNCILWOMAN ELENORA SIMMS

Thank you for your vote of confidence on Monday, September 10, 2012. I look forward to serving you for the next four years. Please stay tune for upcoming meetings and events in Seat Pleasant and for our Ward.

A WORD FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Councilman Johnie Higgs, Sr. Chairman, Committee Members, Councilwoman Aretha Stephenson, Councilman Gerald Raynor, Public Works Director Johnny Thompson

The Public Works Department has completed implementing the new street sweeper schedule and has installed new signs throughout the City. This is to acquaint the residents with the new schedule to that it becomes a routine activity throughout the street sweeping season. The Public Works Committee is asking for your patience and cooperation with us during this transition. Our goal is for us to all work together to beautify our City.

PROTECT YOUR FINANCIAL INFORMATION—ADVICE FROM THE CITY TREASURER

The purpose of this article is to share with you four helpful hints regarding the forward of financial information to a second party .

- **First: Hold on to your personal information.** Do not give any personal information over the phone or internet to an unfamiliar company or caller. This includes your credit card numbers, but also, the credit card expiration date, your social security number, driver license number, bank account numbers, and personal information such as your mother's maiden name. Even if you are told it is only for identification or verification purposes, this information can be used for unauthorized credit cards or bank account debits. Tell the person to send their request to you in the mail and that you will check out their records with the Better Business Bureau
- **Second: Pay the safest way.** Many enjoy the convenience of online shipping. If you're an online shopper remember it's best to use a credit card as your payment option and to check that the internet connection your are using is secure. Under Federal law you can dispute the charges if you don't get what your were promised or if the product is not delivered within the stated time period. Many credit cards issuers also have a zero liability policy for unauthorized charges in the event your credit card number is stolen.
- **Third: Arm yourself with information.** The Better Business Bureau offers safe shopping advice and other helpful tips at its website: bbb.org. When in doubt always checks things out. Consult with trusted family members, friends or neighbor before making a major purchasing decision. Whenever, you have a question or concern regarding a merchant or marketplace transaction. Contact your local Better Business Bureau or check the consumers tips and alert at www.bbb.org.
- **Fourth: Use direct deposit.** Your mail – both incoming and outgoing can be vulnerable. If your social security or supplemental Security Income (SSI) check or other payment is delivered by mail to an unlock box you may be at risk for theft. Direct Deposit eliminates the risk or lost or stolen checks, reduces



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box you may be at risk for theft. Direct Deposit eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks, reduces fraud, and gives people faster access to their money on payment day. Direct Deposit also protects against identity theft. For more information about enrolling in direct deposit of your Social Security on SSI payment call the Go Direct helpline at 1-800-332-1795 or sign up on line at www.Godirect.Org.

For additional information or for assistance please contact Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer at (301) 336-2600 ext 2236.

A WORD FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Seat Pleasant Police Department has seen an increase in purse snatching type thefts in and around gas stations within the City. The suspect(s) survey the area and identify a lone victim, generally a female. As the victim is walking away from their vehicle to enter the gas station the suspect(s) quickly drive up and remove valuables to include the vehicle's keys. Although the Department is conducting surveillance operations in the area, citizens are urged to lock their vehicles and remove all valuables from plain view.



Please report suspicious activity to the Seat Pleasant Police Department at [301-499-8700](tel:301-499-8700). All information received will be kept strictly confidential.

A WORD FROM CPAC CRIME OF OPPORTUNITY

I recently attended a meeting with the police and asked them for a message that they wanted the public to know. They said that even though it's been said many times before, they want you to be extremely cautious at gas stations – especially those on Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway and Central Avenue. We, all too often, make it so easy for criminals to steal from us and thieves love it when you don't pay attention to what's going on around you. Thefts at gas stations are usually crimes of opportunity – we give criminals a great opportunity to take those things that belong to us. How hard can it be to take your car when you leave the keys in the ignition? How tempting is it to take your purse when it's sitting there all by itself on the front seat? We can't always prevent some of these things from happening but we can make it really hard for the criminal. When you get to a gas station, keep the following five safety tips in mind:

1. Lock your doors! Do this as soon as you get out of the car, even if you're paying with a debit/credit card.
2. Store your purse away. Put it under the seat or anywhere out of sight.
3. Keep your windows up. Don't make it easy for someone to simply stick their hand in your window and run.
4. Don't leave your keys in the ignition. Someone is just waiting to jump in your car and ride away.
5. Pay attention to what's around you. Take your time and look around. Leave if something doesn't look right.

Let's prevent crime and hold on to our valuables – we've worked way too hard to get them!

If there's anything you'd like CPAC to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Fire Department, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!

CODE ENFORCEMENT F.Y.I.

Listed below are the most common offenses occurring in the City of Seat Pleasant:



IMPC: 302.1- Sanitation- All exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. The occupant shall keep that part of the exterior property which such occupant occupies or controls in a clean and sanitary condition.

IMPC: 302.4- Weeds – All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 8" inches and weeds off fences. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers

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(CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED)

and gardens.

IMPC: 302.8- Motor Vehicles- No inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises except as provided for in other regulation, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. Vehicles must be parked on asphalt, concrete, gravel, brick stone or any non-porous material; vehicles shall not be parked on the grass. All vehicles within the city of Seat Pleasant need to be properly licensed within the State of Maryland.



Please note: If you reside in the State of Maryland you must register your vehicle within 60 days of moving into the state of Maryland. After the 61st day you can be assessed a fine of \$ 371.00 and your license plates can be taken of your vehicle by the MVA.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

YARD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Residents we need your help!! The City has been experiencing problems with the improper disposal of yard waste and bulk trash. Residents are to call Bates Trucking to schedule a pick up for bulk trash. You must call 301-773-2069 before 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday to schedule a pick up on Wednesday. Yard waste is automatically picked up by Bates on Wednesdays. Yard waste must be placed in a secure tied heavy duty plastic bag (not trash cans). Limbs must not exceed 4 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter and must be securely tied in bundles. Bundles of limbs and bags of dry grass and leaves must weigh less than 60 pounds, wet grass and leaves must weigh less than 25 pounds. The City has contracted Bates Trucking to manage waste disposal in the City. When the City to has to pick up trash it is an additional cost to the City over and above what is paid to Bates which negatively impacts the City's budget. Thank you for your continued cooperation.



GET OUT AND VOTE

Pamela Boone, the president of CPAC and a regular contributor to the newsletter also served on the City's Board of Elections during the City-wide elections. Here she is sharing her thoughts on the Seat Pleasant election and voting.

Did you vote in the recent Seat Pleasant elections? I had the honor of serving on our City's Board of Elections and participating in the voting process and was so excited to be a part of this wonderful experience. It was amazing to meet so many residents but I was also very surprised and disappointed at the limited number of voters who came out. As you know, we have not always had a chance to vote and I think that because we may not have experienced a time when our human rights were denied, we tend to think that voting is no big deal and that our vote doesn't count. Let me tell you that it is a big deal and every, single vote counts. I saw how every person that casts a ballot makes a difference. You are the one who decides who wins or not. Only you can decide how you want our city and country to run.



Most residents who came to the polls were well informed about the candidates, knew the wards where they resided, and were registered in the city. There were many, however, who didn't know any of these things. Learn the ward you live in and get to know your council person. If your name has changed, if you have moved, and if anything else with you has changed, check to make sure you are properly registered. There were some residents who could not vote because they never registered. If this is you, get registered so you can vote in the upcoming presidential election – the registration deadline is October 16. The state of Maryland has an extremely helpful website (<https://voterservices.elections.state.md.us/VoterSearch>) that can let you know if you're registered. You can register online to vote in federal, state, county, and municipal elections in Maryland and you can also use this site to

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(GET OUT AND VOTE CONTINUED)

update your registration if there has been a change of name, address, and/or party affiliation. When you enter your name, date of birth, and zip code, it will let you know if you are registered within the state of Maryland, give you your polling place, and a lot more information. And, it also allows you to update your information if anything is wrong; there is tons of information out there to help you. And, you can always complete a paper application and mail it in. If you can't get online or need an application, call Seat Pleasant's City Hall (301-336-2600) and they will be more than happy to get you the assistance you need. For more information, see http://www.elections.state.md.us/documents/Voting%20in%20MD%20brochure%202011-2012_final.pdf.

I enjoyed meeting so many of you this last election day but please, do these two things. Get involved with Seat Pleasant. Go to the town meetings held every second Monday and see what's going on right here. Secondly, make sure you're registered to vote (again, the deadline is October 16) and cast your ballot in November. You will make a difference.

SEAT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company Inc. announced that during the month of October, volunteers will be out in the community raising money to donate to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Member started late in September, canvassing the City of Seat Pleasant and parts of Capitol Heights and Landover with pink boots and flyers with information on the Seat Pleasant Volunteers as well as Susan G. Komen. During the canvass, volunteers will also offer to check and/or replace non working smoke detectors and batteries. To donate or for more information about the Seat Pleasant volunteers, visit www.seatpleasantfire.com or call 301-836-1957.

**About Susan G. Komen for the Cure®**

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer. Today, Susan G. Komen for the Cure® works to end breast cancer in the U.S. and throughout the world through ground-breaking research, community health outreach, advocacy and programs in more than 30 countries.

Visit komen.org. Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
Fare Increase

**Effective Monday,
November 5, 2012,
Prince George's County's
TheBus Fare Will Be \$1.25.**

- Senior patrons (60 years and older) will continue to ride for **FREE**. (Please note that free and/or reduced fares for seniors on other transit systems require patrons to be 65 years or older.)
- Middle and high school students with school identification may continue to ride for **FREE** between 2 pm and 7 pm.
- Students (all other times) will pay **Regular Full Fare**.

If you have questions regarding the fare change, please call the Department of Public Works and Transportation, Office of Transportation, at 301-883-5656.



Ruthern L. Baker, III
County Executive
DPW&T 08/2012



Authorized By:

Natham A. Hgazi
Director

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

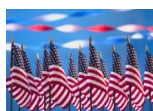
Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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FIRST CLASS
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**Your are cordially invited to
The City of Seat Pleasant's
"A City of Excellence"**

**ANNUAL VETERANS DAY
PROGRAM**



**Monday, November 12, 2012
10:00 a.m.**

**Seat Pleasant Activity Center
5720 Addison Road
Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743**

**For more information contact Darlinda.
Sanders at Seat Pleasant City Hall at
301-336-2600**



**COUNCILWOMAN ARETHA STEPHENSON
IS HOSTING A
WARD II**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR
OCTOBER 19, 2012
12 NOON - 4:00 P.M.**

**PLEASANT HOMES COMMUNITY
CENTER
6810 GREIG STREET
SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND 20743
Free health screenings and more.**

**For more information contact Aretha Stephen-
son at 240-601-1037**